

Bloomington Arts Commission

Wednesday, August 10th, 2016

5 to 6:30 pm

McCloskey Conference Room, City Hall

A G E N D A

1. Call to Order/Welcome - Sally Gaskill, Chair
2. Public Comment
3. July Minutes
4. Guest Speaker
 - Jeff Poulin, Arts Education Program Manager at Americans for the Arts.
5. The Indiana Film and Media Production Incentive program - Angelo Pizzo
6. Staff Report - Sean Starowitz
 - Comprehensive Master plan
7. Commissioner Announcements
8. Good of the order/Adjournment

2016 Meetings - 5pm McCloskey

September 14

October 12

November 9

December 14

Bloomington Arts Commission

Minutes

July 13, 2016

Present: Sally Gaskill, Chair; Lynne Schwartzberg, Alain Barker, Gabe Colman, Michael Wilkerson, Sean Starowitz.

This quorumless but spirited meeting was called to order by Sally Gaskill at the artists' equivalent of 5 p.m. Sean offered an abbreviated finance report. The Municipal Arts Fund, designated for capital projects, has \$61,000. The operating account of \$4900 is all spent except for \$10.21, which caused the commission to decide not to go out after the meeting for grilled salmon. Grants, Sean explained, come out of a different fund, the city council's annual appropriation.

Sally reported on having attended the poetry slam, which was presented by a grant recipient. Her report consisted of comic book exclamations: Wow! Powerful! She encouraged commissioners to visit arts events, particularly by our grant recipients.

Discussion turned toward an evaluation of the June reception for grant recipients. It was thought that it was universally a hit and should become an annual tradition, though with refreshments and the presentation of the Patty Pizzo award added. Alain suggested that we might consider embellishing it even further, linking it to the emerging work of the IU Arts and Humanities Council and/or to some kind of season kickoff gala for the arts.

Alain Barker talked about the establishment of a BAC Youtube channel to encompass Duane Busick's excellent videos on such events as the recent ceremony and the trailside dedication of Dale Enochs' sculpture. (As of the writing of this document, the channel had not yet appeared, though Duane Busick has his own Bloomington Arts channel which includes 91 videos from the 1978 (!) Tuba Christmas performance to the highlights of 2016.

Sally mentioned that the BAC strategic plan has expired, and she and Sean expressed a desire to begin thinking about a new cultural plan. Sean noted that the BEAD plan has also expired, though a "vision statement" exists until 2018. 2018 is the 200th anniversary of the city of Bloomington, and the city hopes to have a plan in place for that celebration by the time the 2017-18 budget is submitted.

Sean expressed an interest in making the arts an integral part of city planning, possibly encompassing an NEA "Our Town" grant in cooperation with Downtown Business, Visit Bloomington, and others. Sean's vision of cultural planning extends beyond BEAD to the whole city. He is working on establishing strong metrics that would be linked to results and funding. He suggested that commissioners read the Boston and Minneapolis cultural plans.

Sean is continuing to meet people in his new role and has now gone beyond the "usual suspects" of the major organizations and is talking to younger and more "outsider" types. He has been working with WFHB to establish an arts show as part of Interchange and to insert some work into Café Indiana, the new Saturday arts show on WFIU. He has recently encountered representatives from publishers in town including Cardboard House, Monster House and Ledge Mule. He describes his position as "more about gardening than development."

Requests for assistance pour into his office - from the IU Football program, which is establishing an artistic football project, from Vectren, which is interested in a B-line mural.

He has confirmed that renowned chef Alice Waters will visit in March. There will be an important Peruvian print show at the Block House in November.

There was discussion of the perennial challenge of ensuring that small organizations, often with little or no paid staff, actually accomplish what they had promised in their grant applications. Toward that end, Abby Perfetti has been helping the chamber singers with goal fulfillment and reporting, and Sally suggested that Commissioners might emulate her and assist organizations in understanding what is needed to fulfill city grant expectations.

Sean's final reporting item was that the city is working on updating the BEAD website.

The meeting concluded with an inconclusive but interesting conversation about whether the BAC is reaching all the arts organizations and artists it should, and how younger artists and nascent/temporary organizations can be included in the fabric of what we do. Sean suggested we think of the arts as an ecosystem in which marginal, young, large, established and older organizations and artists are all integral parts.

On that spiritual and philosophical note, and recognizing the sad reality of the \$10.21 limit to our remaining entertainment budget, the commission adjourned, believing in its artistic heart that there might be a quorum in August.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Wilkerson, Secretary

August 5, 2016